

Remarks

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed June 15, 2005. Claims 1-15 and 17-67 remain pending in the Application. Claims 1-15, 17-41, 43-61, and 63-67 are allowed. Claims 42 and 62 stand rejected. Claims 42, 62, and 63 are being amended. No new matter is being introduced by way of these amendments.

Claims 42 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gullapalli (U.S. Patent 6,424,076) in view of Ben-Yaakov (WO 00/25368). Applicant is amending these claims to include similar limitations as previously presented claim 1. In particular, Claim 42 as amended now recites, "means for selectably enabling and disabling said at least one actuator ... said means defined by at least two means, connected in series and each having an open state and a closed state, for combining to perform the enabling and disabling." Similarly, Claim 62 as amended now recites, "means for selectably applying a reference signal to the second electrode of at least one actuator ... said means defined by at least two means, connected in series and each having an open state and a closed state, for combining to apply the reference signal." As described in reference to claim 1 in Amendment C mailed November 7, 2004 in response to the Office Action dated August 25, 2004, neither Gullapalli nor Ben-Yaakov, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, "means, connected in series and each having an open state and a closed state, for combining to perform the enabling and disabling" or "combining to apply the reference signal."

In the Office Action at hand, page 3, part 2, last paragraph, Examiner indicates that "wiring and nodes used to connect switches MS1 and MS2 of Ben-Yaakov" can be considered as "means in series." Applicant submits that "wiring and nodes" are not capable of having "an open state and a closed state," as now recited in amended claims 42 and 62.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 42 and 62 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Allowed Claim 63 is being amended to remove an extraneous "and" for clarification purposes and is now ready for issuance.

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Amendment E

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the application having now pending claims (claims 1-15 and 17-67) is in order for issuance. Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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